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German Democratic Republic

SECURITY INFORMATION

GDR LAW ON THE 1951 ECONOMIC PLAN

The Law itself, signed on 14 March 1951, is divided into the following 23 sections with introductory remarks:

The introductory remarks, constituting a preamble, evaluate the 1950 economic achievements and the general goals for 1951, the first year of the Five-Year Plan.

Section 1 of the Law lists the principal tasks of the GDR economy under the 1951 Plan. For example, total gross production of industry is to be raised 17.9 percent over the 1950 figures, that of agriculture by 9 percent. This section states goals in foreign trade, productivity of labor, employment, investments, raw material distribution and supply, etc.

Section 2 details the field of endeavor subject to the provisions of the Law. They are: Industry, agriculture, water supply, forestry, transportation, postal and tele-communications, investments, research and development, geological surveys, manpower, lowering of production costs in the people-owned economy, foreign trade, allotment of materials, standard of living and retail trade turnover, crafts (small-scale industry), communal enterprises, health, advancement of youth, and cultural activities.

Section 3 lists in some detail the projected industrial gross production increases, divided according to the following branches of industry: Heavy industry; machine-building; light industry and food, beverages, and tobacco. Factors outside of stepped-up production must be taken into consideration, such as improved quality, lowering of costs, etc. Key production problems are pointed out, e.g. vital planned increases in black coal output, raw brown coal output (5.7 percent more), briquette production (5.2 percent more), power supply (accompanied by economical power use for nonessential purposes). The quality of rolled products is to be improved and the production of seamless steel tubes, deep-drawn sheet, and transformer sheet is to be expanded. Similar additional details are provided for this branch of industry (heavy industry) as well as for all other branches and sub-branches of industry.

Sections 4-22 furnish similar information for the other segments of the economy listed in Section 2.

Section 23 exhorts to full cooperation with the purposes of the Plan and delegates authority for action to various agencies in the governmental hierarchy.

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